

From: Jon Van Ness [mailto:jvanness@khqa.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2007 1:31 PM
To: Kevin Martin
Subject: Cable carriage

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Martin

As we approach the conversion date to the HD signal I am becoming alarmed that the confusion surrounding the transition will disenfranchise many viewers.

I come from a unique perspective. KHQA recently launched a digital channel and the questions surrounding the ability for viewers to watch were enormous.

The questions were many and the answers are complex.

One way to minimize the anxiety surrounding the launch would be for the passage of "CableTV Viewability Proposal". A viewer would be able to watch an analog signal from their cable company if all else fails.

I'm convinced that the viewing public would be partially served by the acceptance of the "CableTV Viewability Proposal".

Thank you for your consideration.

With Warm Regards,

Jon Van Ness
KHQA-TV DT
Station Manager
301 South 36th Street
Quincy, IL 62301
jvanness@khqa.com

From: Gordon Wark [mailto:gwark@wagmtv.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2007 11:33 AM
To: Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: mmacbride@nab.org
Subject: CableTV Viewability Proposal

Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell,

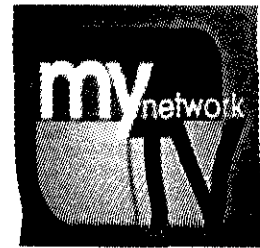
I am writing to you first to thank you for the opportunity to speak before the Commission at the public hearing held earlier this year in Portland, Maine.

Secondly I am writing to encourage you to please give serious consideration to the Cable TV Viewability Proposal on your docket for September 11, 2007. The continued viability of local media is critical to the fabric of the local identity of our communities. What is most critical to the viability of local broadcast media is the widest dissemination possible of the broadcaster's signal. I believe that the CableTV Viewability Proposal represents a very forward thinking approach that will greatly help to: prevent the disenfranchisement of many television viewers after February 18, 2009, give the local broadcaster the ability to recover millions of dollars already spent on the transition and the upgrade to HDTV, and give the viewers the most spectacular images and sound available while expanding the number of local services available greatly.

As indicated in the information below my name and title, I manage both television and cable companies and see only a win, win for both entities.

Sincerely,

Gordon Wark
President/GM
NEPSK Inc.
WAGM-TV8 DT8-1 FOX8
DT 8-2 CBS8 HD &
Polaris Cable Services
207-764-4461
12 Brewer Road
Presque Isle, Maine 04769



September 5, 2007

TO: The Honorable Commissioners of the FCC
FROM: Pat Dalbey, General Manager & Regional Vice-President, Gray Television
RE: Support for Cable TV Viewability Proposal

Dear Commissioner(s):

With the deadline for ending analog television transmissions just 18 months away, it is imperative that cable operators be ready to protect cable subscribers from losing their local station due to technical issues. Thus I am writing to encourage you to support the DTV Carriage Order that is on your agenda for September 11, 2007. Your support of the Cable Order will require Cable Operators to be prepared to accept Broadcasters Digital signals and provide them to all households on the cable system without degradation. The Cable Order also requires Cable Operator to provide "analog only" households with the necessary equipment to down convert the Broadcasters Digital signal. These two steps are necessary in order to assure that all cable households are provided service from the broadcasters in their area without interruption caused by technical issues at the cable system.

Your support of the Cable TV Viewability Proposal on September 11th is important.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pat Dalbey'.

Pat Dalbey
General Manager & Regional Vice-President, Gray Television

PAD/jg

Transmitted by email:
Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner
Marsha MacBride, Executive Vice-President, Legal & Regulatory Affairs, NAB

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SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Robin Anderson [mailto:randerson@daktel.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2007 12:41 PM

To: Deborah Tate; Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell; senator@dorgan.senate.gov

Subject: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin's Proposed Triple Carriage Must-Carry Order

September 4, 2007

To the Members of the United States Senate

To the Members of the United States House of Representatives

Re: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin's Proposed Triple Carriage Must-Carry Order

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Members of the American Cable Association (ACA) and the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) are small and medium-sized cable operators with a long history of providing high-quality, innovative video service to their communities. These cable operators who provide service to smaller and rural markets are currently making significant investments in their facilities to offer more services to consumers, including high-definition digital programming and video on demand. In addition, these operators are launching advanced services, such as broadband and voice, providing rural consumers with the much-touted "Triple Play." Small and medium-sized cable operators understand that to remain competitive, they must offer consumers a robust service.

However, the Associations and their members are gravely concerned about the digital television carriage order. The draft order would require cable operators after February 17, 2009 to carry one signal of each broadcaster in three different formats: high definition, standard definition and analog. It is both fiscally and technologically infeasible for all small and medium-sized operators to meet such a burdensome obligation. The upgrade costs required to comply with this mandate are substantial -- upwards of several hundred dollars per subscriber in small markets. Further, many small cable operators simply lack the capacity to offer all broadcast stations in all three formats, and it is not feasible for small cable operators to upgrade their facilities to all-digital and provide set-top boxes to all of their subscribers.

In some cases, the triple-carriage requirement would force operators of small systems to remove existing channels from their channel lineup, or reduce the amount of bandwidth available for broadband and voice services, further broadening the digital divide between urban and rural consumers. In other cases, operator would be compelled to shut down their systems altogether, removing a vital video and voice competitor in the market, and eliminating access to any broadband service for some consumers.

The digital television triple-carriage order must be rejected in order to not harm rural consumers and the companies that serve them. The Associations and their community-based members, along with the millions of subscribers they serve, are hopeful that you and your policymaking colleagues at the FCC recognize the need for sensible regulation that will accomplish the goals of the digital transition without compromising the quality video and broadband service rural consumers enjoy and have come to expect from their providers.

Sincerely,

Robin Anderson
Marketing Manager
Dakota Central Telecommunications
630 5th Street North
Carrington, ND 58421

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

September 4, 2007

To the Members of the United States Senate
To the Members of the United States House of Representatives

Re: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin's Proposed Triple Carriage Must-Carry Order

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Members of the American Cable Association (ACA) and the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) are small and medium-sized cable operators with a long history of providing high-quality, innovative video service to their communities. These cable operators who provide service to smaller and rural markets are currently making significant investments in their facilities to offer more services to consumers, including high-definition digital programming and video on demand. In addition, these operators are launching advanced services, such as broadband and voice, providing rural consumers with the much-touted "Triple Play." Small and medium-sized cable operators understand that to remain competitive, they must offer consumers a robust service.

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The digital television triple-carriage order must be rejected in order to not harm rural consumers and the companies that serve them. The Associations and their community-based members, along with the millions of subscribers they serve, are hopeful that you and your policymaking colleagues at the FCC recognize the need for sensible regulation that will accomplish the goals of the digital transition without compromising the quality video and broadband service rural consumers enjoy and have come to expect from their providers.

Sincerely, Joann King, General Manager, Cable One, Kirksville, Missouri 63501

Deleted: 1



208 Debuys Road P.O. Box 4596 Biloxi, MS 39535-4596 228.896.1313 Fax 228.896.0749 wlox.com

September 7, 2003

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
FAX 202-418-2801

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Chairman Martin & Commissioners,

Things are beginning to move very quickly in the digital transition and February 17, 2009 will be here before we know it. Many local television stations, including WLOX Biloxi, are launching educational efforts aimed at viewers and forming partnerships with digital television dealers in an effort to make this an exciting transition for our industry.

I am asking for your support of the **Cable TV Viewability Proposal**. There must be a way to guarantee that analog cable subscribers will not be disenfranchised after February 17, 2009. There is a great deal of educating to be done in a very short period of time, certainly representing a daunting task for us all. Television signals must be protected from material degradation so that all consumers can gain the full benefits of HDTV.

It is imperative that in the Biloxi, Mississippi DMA market 160, with a cable penetration of over 68%, cable operators implement one of the two options offered in the proposal for our must-carry signal. **It is critical to the American consumer, our viewers, that this Cable TV Viewability Proposal be adopted by the Commission.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leon Long'.

Leon Long, General Manager
WLOX TV

cc: The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Keith True [mailto:ktrue@fox24.com]

Sent: Friday, September 07, 2007 11:55 AM

To: Kevin Martin

Cc: tvacquisitions@aol.com; mmacbride@nab.org; cwilkins@nab.org; Robert McDowell; Deborah Tate; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps

Subject: CableTV Viewability

Honorable Chairman Martin and Commissioners

As we quickly approach the digital transition date of February 17, 2009, WGXA FOX 24 will continue it's efforts to inform and educate the viewers of Macon, Ga. of the changes coming to our industry.

I am asking you for your support of one of the two options being offered in the Cable TV Viewability Proposal. It is critical that analog cable subscribers not be disenfranchised and television signals be protected from material degradation.

Currently in Macon, Ga cable penetration is 64% in the metro and 56% in the DMA. These consumers have the right to be protected and receive the full benefits of HDTV.

Thank you,
Keith True
Vice President/General Manager
WGXA FOX 24
Macon, Georgia
478-745-2424

September 5, 2007

FILED/ACCEPTED

To the Members of the United States Senate
To the Members of the United States House of Representatives
To the Members of the Federal Communications Commission

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Re: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin's Proposed Triple Carriage Must-Carry Order

Dear Senators, Representatives and FCC Commissioners:

Members of the American Cable Association (ACA) and the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) are small and medium-sized cable operators with a long history of providing high-quality, innovative video service to their communities. These cable operators who provide service to smaller and rural markets are currently making significant investments in their facilities to offer more services to consumers, including high-definition digital programming and video on demand. In addition, these operators are launching advanced services, such as broadband and voice, providing rural consumers with the much-touted "Triple Play." Small and medium-sized cable operators understand that to remain competitive, they must offer consumers a robust service.

However, the Associations and their members are gravely concerned about the digital television carriage order. The draft order would require cable operators after February 17, 2009 to carry one signal of each broadcaster in three different formats: high definition, standard definition and analog. It is both fiscally and technologically infeasible for all small and medium-sized operators to meet such a burdensome obligation. The upgrade costs required to comply with this mandate are substantial -- upwards of several hundred dollars per subscriber in small markets. Further, many small cable operators simply lack the capacity to offer all broadcast stations in all three formats, and it is not feasible for small cable operators to upgrade their facilities to all-digital and provide set-top boxes to all of their subscribers.

In some cases, the triple-carriage requirement would force operators of small systems to remove existing channels from their channel lineup, or reduce the amount of bandwidth available for broadband and voice services, further broadening the digital divide between urban and rural consumers. In other cases, operator would be compelled to shut down their systems altogether, removing a vital video and voice competitor in the market, and denying access to broadband services.

Rather than mandating triple carriage, the federal government should allow the marketplace to dictate which formats independent cable operators provide to their subscribers and the timetable for small operators to transition into all-digital services, among those that can do so. Letting the market work will ensure that consumers stay connected after the digital transition.

The digital television triple-carriage order must be rejected in order to not harm rural consumers and the companies that serve them. The Associations and their community-based members, along with the millions of subscribers they serve, are hopeful that you and your policymaking colleagues at the FCC recognize the need for sensible regulation that will accomplish the goals of the digital transition without compromising the quality video and broadband service rural consumers enjoy and have come to expect from their providers.

Sincerely,



Mark L. Winslow
VP & General Manager
Crystal Cable TV, Inc.
Crystal MI 48818

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SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: McClure, Charlotte [mailto:Charlotte.McClure@cableone.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2007 11:08 AM
To: Kevin Martin
Subject: Triple-Carriage order Wrong Public Policy for Small Cable

September 5, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin:

Members of the American Cable Association (ACA) and the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) are small and medium-sized cable operators with a long history of providing high-quality, innovative video service to their communities. These cable operators who provide service to smaller and rural markets are currently making significant investments in their facilities to offer more services to consumers, including high-definition digital programming and video on demand. In addition, these operators are launching advanced services, such as broadband and voice, providing rural consumers with the much-touted "Triple Play." Small and medium-sized cable operators understand that to remain competitive, they must offer consumers a robust service.

However, the Associations and their members are gravely concerned about the digital television carriage order. The draft order would require cable operators after February 17, 2009 to carry one signal of each broadcaster in three different formats: high definition, standard definition and analog. It is both fiscally and technologically infeasible for all small and medium-sized operators to meet such a burdensome obligation. The upgrade costs required to comply with this mandate are substantial -- upwards of several hundred dollars per subscriber in small markets. Further, many small cable operators simply lack the capacity to offer all broadcast stations in all three formats, and it is not feasible for small cable operators to upgrade their facilities to all-digital and provide set-top boxes to all of their subscribers.

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The digital television triple-carriage order must be rejected in order to not harm rural consumers and the companies that serve them. The Associations and their community-based members, along with the millions of subscribers they serve, are hopeful that you and your policymaking colleagues at the FCC recognize the need for sensible regulation that will accomplish the goals of the digital transition without compromising the quality video and broadband service rural consumers enjoy and have come to expect from their providers.

Sincerely,

Charlotte McClure
General Manager
Cable One, Inc
112 E. 32nd ST
P.O. Box 2525

Joplin, MO 64803-2525

417/206-5300

From: Jim Hanson [mailto:jhanson@SOUTHSLOPE.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2007 10:07 AM
To: Kevin Martin
Subject: DTV Triple Carriage

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SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

September 5, 2007

To the Members of the United States Senate
To the Members of the United States House of Representatives

Re: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin's Proposed Triple Carriage Must-Carry Order

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Members of the American Cable Association (ACA) and the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) are small and medium-sized cable operators with a long history of providing high-quality, innovative video service to their communities. These cable operators who provide service to smaller and rural markets are currently making significant investments in their facilities to offer more services to consumers, including high-definition digital programming and video on demand. In addition, these operators are launching advanced services, such as broadband and voice, providing rural consumers with the much-touted "Triple Play." Small and medium-sized cable operators understand that to remain competitive, they must offer consumers a robust service.

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The digital television triple-carriage order must be rejected in order to not harm rural consumers and the companies that serve them. The Associations and their community-based members, along with the millions of subscribers they serve, are hopeful that you and your policymaking colleagues at the FCC recognize the need for sensible regulation that will accomplish the goals of the digital transition without compromising the quality video and broadband service rural consumers enjoy and have come to expect from their providers.

Sincerely,

Jim Hanson

Sales Manager
South Slope Cooperative Telephone Company
980 North Front St.
North Liberty, IA 52317

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

September 4, 2007

To the Members of the United States Senate
To the Members of the United States House of Representatives

Re: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin's Proposed Triple Carriage Must-Carry Order

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Members of the American Cable Association (ACA) and the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) are small and medium-sized cable operators with a long history of providing high-quality, innovative video service to their communities. These cable operators who provide service to smaller and rural markets are currently making significant investments in their facilities to offer more services to consumers, including high-definition digital programming and video on demand. In addition, these operators are launching advanced services, such as broadband and voice, providing rural consumers with the much-touted "Triple Play." Small and medium-sized cable operators understand that to remain competitive, they must offer consumers a robust service.

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The digital television triple-carriage order must be rejected in order to not harm rural consumers and the companies that serve them. The Associations and their community-based members, along with the millions of subscribers they serve, are hopeful that you and your policymaking colleagues at the FCC recognize the need for sensible regulation that will accomplish the goals of the digital transition without compromising the quality video and broadband service rural consumers enjoy and have come to expect from their providers.

Sincerely,



Kellie Thieman
Customer Service Manager
OmniTel Communications
kthieman@omnitel.biz
641-749-2531

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Michael Bauguss [mailto:mbct@mchsi.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2007 9:25 AM
To: Kevin Martin
Subject: *No to Triple DTV Carriage*

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin:

The adoption of the triple carriage proposal would be devastating to our small cable systems, as we do not have the bandwidth and the funds to launch each broadcasters signal in higher definition, standard definition and analog after the February 2009 digital transition. Our cable system serves 19 small rural communities with sub-counts anywhere from 10 to 160 subs per community.

Michael Bauguss
President
ClearVision Cable Systems, Inc.
(217) 923-5594

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Lange, Linda J [mailto:llange@hearst.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2007 8:48 AM
To: Kevin Martin
Subject: CableTV Viewability Proposal (From David Barrett)

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of Hearst-Argyle Television, Inc. and our 29 owned and managed television stations, I would like to register our support for the **CableTV Viewability Proposal** which I understand will be considered at a September 11, 2007 meeting.

We view this proposal as the only way to guarantee that analog cable subscribers will not be disenfranchised after the DTV transition occurs.

It is our hope and expectation that our TV signals will be protected from material degradation, and that our viewers/consumers will be able to enjoy the full benefits of High Definition Television.

We ask that you vote in support of the **CableTV Viewability Proposal**.

Thank you.

David J. Barrett
President & CEO
Hearst-Argyle Television, Inc.
300 West 57th Street, 39th Floor
New York, NY 10019
212-887-6811

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This e-mail message is intended for the personal use of the recipient(s) named above. If you are not an intended recipient, you may not review, copy or distribute this message.

From: Ron Laudner [mailto:rlaudner@omnitel.biz]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2007 8:18 AM
To: Kevin Martin
Subject: Triple Coverage Order

FILED/ACCEPTED
SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

September 4, 2007

Re: Proposed Triple Carriage Must-Carry Order

Dear Chairman Martin:

Members of the American Cable Association (ACA) and the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) are small and medium-sized cable operators with a long history of providing high-quality, innovative video service to their communities. These cable operators who provide service to smaller and rural markets are currently making significant investments in their facilities to offer more services to consumers, including high-definition digital programming and video on demand. In addition, these operators are launching advanced services, such as broadband and voice, providing rural consumers with the much-touted "Triple Play." Small and medium-sized cable operators understand that to remain competitive, they must offer consumers a robust service.

However, the Associations and their members are gravely concerned about the digital television carriage order. The draft order would require cable operators after February 17, 2009 to carry one signal of each broadcaster in three different formats: high definition, standard definition and analog. It is both fiscally and technologically infeasible for all small and medium-sized operators to meet such a burdensome obligation. The upgrade costs required to comply with this mandate are substantial -- upwards of several hundred dollars per subscriber in small markets. Further, many small cable operators simply lack the capacity to offer all broadcast stations in all three formats, and it is not feasible for small cable operators to upgrade their facilities to all-digital and provide set-top boxes to all of their subscribers.

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The digital television triple-carriage order must be rejected in order to not harm rural consumers and the companies that serve them. The Associations and their community-based members, along with the millions of subscribers they serve, are hopeful that you and your policymaking colleagues at the FCC recognize the need for sensible regulation that will accomplish the goals of the digital transition without compromising the quality video and broadband service rural consumers enjoy and have come to expect from their providers.

Sincerely,

Ronald Laudner

CEO

OmniTel Communications

608 East Congress

Nora Springs, IA 50458

641-749-2531 - Wk
641-749-9578 - Fx
641-420-5002 - Cell
rlaudner@omnitel.biz
www.omnitel.biz



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From: Drennen, Judy [mailto:Judy.Drennen@cableone.net]

Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2007 6:46 PM

To: Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Federal Communications Commission

Subject: FCC Triple Carriage Order

SEP - 7 2007

Office of the Secretary

Dear FCC Members:

I am gravely concerned about the proposal of the FCC Triple Carriage Order due to be discussed at the September 11, 2007 meeting. Please consider the following before your decision is made.

A triple-carriage requirement would force operators of small systems to remove existing channels from their channel lineup, or reduce the amount of bandwidth available for broadband and voice services, further broadening the digital divide between urban and rural consumers. It's possible some operators would be compelled to shut down their systems altogether, removing a vital competitor in the market and possibly eliminating access to any broadband service for some consumers.

It is **NOT** economically feasible for small and medium size cable operators to absorb costs associated with a proposal that would require carriage the signal of each broadcaster in three different formats; high definition, standard definition and analog. Again, it is both fiscally and technologically infeasible to meet such a burdensome obligation. Upgrade costs required to comply are substantial – upwards of several hundred dollars per subscriber in smaller markets. Many small cable operators lack the capacity to offer all broadcast stations in all three formats and it is not feasible for them to upgrade their facilities to all-digital and provide set-top boxes to all subscribers.

The digital television triple-carriage order must be rejected in order to not harm rural consumers and the companies that serve them. I am hopeful you and your colleagues recognize the need for regulation that will accomplish the goals of digital transition without harming video and broadband service rural consumers enjoy and expect.

Sincerely,

Judy Drennen

Cable One

Pocatello, Idaho

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Larry McMillan [mailto:lmcmillan6@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2007 2:09 AM
To: Kevin Martin
Subject: From Northwest Cable, Inc

Sir, Please head my plea to reconsider the following as this "Triple Carriage Proposal" will be an end for our very small system in Northwest Montana serving a little over 200 subscribers. As the following states, this is economically unfeasible for us to survive such an action.

Tell D.C. No to Triple DTV Carriage

Tell Congress and the FCC that you oppose the Triple Carriage Proposal as it will be devastating to American consumers (your subscribers)! If adopted, the order would force all cable systems to carry each broadcaster's signal in high definition, standard definition and analog after the February 2009 digital transition.

It is fiscally and technologically infeasible for all small and medium-sized operators. This proposal is likely to put some independent cable operators out of business, removing a vital video and voice competitor in the market, and eliminating access to any broadband service for some consumers!

Compliance would force operators of small systems to remove existing channels from their lineup, or reduce the amount of bandwidth available for broadband and voice services, further broadening the digital divide between urban and rural consumers.

The current proposal has no exemptions for small cable systems

Thank you for reconsidering this issue and please act in our favor.

Please feel free to call me at 480-726-0906 to discuss this matter.

Respectfully,

Larry McMillan

Northwest Cable, Inc.; Serving Coram, Martin City, and Hungry Horse, MT. (59913, 59926, 59919)

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP - 7 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Butch Rorabaugh [mailto:eb_butch@netins.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2007 5:13 PM
To: Kevin Martin
Subject: Triple Carriage - PLEASE READ

Dear Commissioner Martin:

As you consider Triple Carriage Must Carry proposals we would encourage you to consider the impact on small rural communities.

Given the cost of programming and sparse population density, small cable systems like ours (365 customers) very rarely generate a profit – It's more or less a community service that our telephone cooperative provides. Throw in a large investment associated with Triple Carriage Must Carry regulation along with associated off-air programming fees that will follow and the price skyrockets or the projected income turns bright red.

Either way it is very likely that a Triple Carriage Must Carry order would bankrupt small rural carriers and leave satellite carriers as the only alternative to rabbit ears.

Of course the satellite carriers will expand their operations to better service rural customers – DirecTV is an excellent example of that (Ha-Ha-Ha).

Our Cooperative makes little or no money on cable services but I would hate to see people in small communities have to go through what our rural customers went through when DirecTV effectively forced us out of the satellite business.

Please consider an exemption for small communities – I would suggest that it is in their best interest.

And while e-mail is great I would also encourage you to call us with any questions or concerns you have.

Good luck in your deliberations.

Sincerely,
E.A.'Butch' Rorabaugh
General Manager
East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative